

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2010 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Haddon, Lefevre, Lew, McGee, and Chairperson See.

Absent: Commissioner White.

Also Present: Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden,
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner White for the June 17, 2010 Commission meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner McGee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Lefevre moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to approve the May 20, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Lefevre seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner White and with Commissioners Haddon and Lew abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

None.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

**8A. PRESENTATION BY WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
REGARDING THE RELIABILITY 2020 PROGRAM, EXPANSION OF THE
EDWARD LITTLE RECYCLING PLANT, AND STATUS OF THE OCEAN
DESALINATION IN THE WEST BASIN**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and recommended that the Water Commission take action recommending that City Council support the Reliability 2020 Program. He welcomed Public and Government Affairs Manager Ron Wildermuth and Chief Public Information Officer Alexis Tate from the West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD).

Manager Wildermuth provided a slide presentation regarding the Reliability 2020 Program, the expansion of the WBMWD Water Recycling plant in El Segundo, and the future of ocean desalination in the area and status of WBMWD's Ocean Desalination Demonstration facility in Redondo Beach. He discussed the global water crisis and noted that water problems have expanded beyond the "dry" western United States. He stated that the Los Angeles area has 10 million people, almost no water, and relies heavily on imported water supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River. He discussed some of the problems facing the Bay Delta and Colorado River and commended Metropolitan Water District (MWD) for its foresight, its Diamond Valley Lake investment, and keeping the water flowing under adverse conditions. He stated that Reliability 2020 will increase local control from its current 33% to 66% by 2020 by maximizing recycling and conservation efforts, expanding education, and utilizing ocean desalination. He described plans to use 100% recycled water for the seawater barrier, expanded refinery use of recycled water, and the Anza and other laterals that will serve West High School and other schools. He discussed plans to maximize conservation that include completing the restroom retrofit, large landscape, and high efficiency toilets programs. Expanded water education includes Ocean Friendly Garden classes, Water Harvest Festival, Landscape Expo, and tours of the recycling plant.

He described the two-year Ocean Desalination Demonstration Facility at the SEALab in Redondo Beach that will research and test the safest intake methods for ocean water using a simulated under-ocean floor system and passive wedge wire screen technology. He noted that ocean desalination uses "green" energy to offset higher energy use than other sources of water. He stated that the goal is to produce 20 million gallons a day to help supplement the region's water supply and to be available in case of emergency. He stated that WBMWD have been ocean stewards since the 1990's and that polling shows environmentalist and community support for Reliability 2020 and ocean water desalination. He noted that Reliability 2020 actually lowers WBMWD's overall energy use over importing water supplies and will cost the same as paying for less reliable imported water. He concluded his presentation with a list of supporters and benefits to Torrance that include reducing potable water use by local refineries and other businesses and increasing local water reliability against an uncertain future.

MWD Director Wright discussed reasons why developing local water supplies is so important, noting that it will be a minimum of 10 years before the Bay Delta can be fixed.

When Commissioner Lefevre commented that Heal the Bay and Surfrider are skeptical about ocean desalination, Manager Wildermuth stated that they are waiting on results of the Demonstration Facility, noting that all data will be made public.

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to concur with staff recommendation to recommend that City Council support the Reliability 2020 Program. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner White).

8B. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH GOAL REPORT (PHG) AND PRESENTATION REGARDING THE ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR CALENDAR 2009

This item was pulled from the agenda.

8C. ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR FISCAL 2010-11

Commissioner Lew nominated Commissioner Deemer for Chairperson of the Water Commission. Commissioner Deemer accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Commissioner Haddon moved to close the nominations and to elect Commissioner Deemer as Chairperson of the Water Commission for fiscal year 2010-11. Chairperson See seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner White).

Commissioner Deemer nominated Commissioner Haddon and Commissioner Lew nominated Commissioner McGee for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission. Commissioners Haddon and McGee accepted the nominations.

MOTION: Commissioner Lefevre, seconded by Chairperson See, moved to close the nominations; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commission Haddon was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission for fiscal year 2010-11 as reflected in a 5-1 roll call vote.

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright distributed his June 15, 2010 report regarding MWD activities to the Mayor and Council Members. He explained reasons why he was opposed to cutting MWD's Replacement Repair Budget and emphasized the importance of keeping the system in good order and being proactive.

He presented a video on MWD's machine, fabrication, and coating shops in the City of La Verne that provide inspection, repair, fabrication, support, technical assistance, and maintenance of equipment.

MWD Director Wright commented that the facility has been operating for 60-70 years, noting how difficult it is to find machinists these days.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at June 1, 2010 West Basin Water Association meeting the Water Master reported a 16% increase in West Coast Basin pumping over the last six months. He stated that the West Basin Water District provided an update on the Ocean Desalination Demonstration Facility in Redondo Beach, plans for expansion of the Edward Little Facility, water quality issues with influent water received from Los Angeles County Hyperion Plant, and the 45% allocation on the State Water Project. He reported that Water Replenishment District passed its budget with a 12.5% increase to the replenishment assessment, is working on a Master Plan that will include the West Coast Basin and Central Basin, and will be releasing their Saline Plume Map update soon. He stated that a new executive board was elected at the Quarterly West Basin Water Association General Meeting on May 19, 2010 and that plans are underway for a joint Basin barbeque in August 2010.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden presented the Monthly Department Report for May 2010. He reported a decrease of 18% in overall water production in May 2010 as compared to May 2009 due to conservation and the workover at ExxonMobil. He stated that there were three water main break incidents and provided an update on the Goldsworthy Desalter facility, noting that it was placed back in full service in early June 2010 and rehabilitation was successful in restoring the well capacity.

MOTION: Commissioner Haddon moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report as presented. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner White).

12. ORALS

12A. Commissioner Deemer suggested showing a picture of the proposed tunnel under the Bay Delta to promote the fall water bond issue.

12B. Commissioner McGee requested an excused absence for the July 15, 2010 Commission meeting.

12C. Commissioner Lefevre shared the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers' magazine "Spectrum" regarding water issues.

12D. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that 4,500 to 5,000 people attended the City Yard Open House last weekend.

12E. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden discussed the RFP for utility billing and interview with Global Water.

12F. Chairperson See wished Commissioner White a speedy recovery.

12G. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich announced a Gardening and Landscape Workshop on June 19, 2010 at the Nakano Theatre.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:11 p.m., Commissioner McGee moved to adjourn the meeting to July 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haddon and, hearing no objection, Chairperson See so ordered.

Approved as Submitted July 15, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
--